

Sir. After studying the best means of saving a portion of the fine ~~sediment~~^{flour} of gold that condenses from the smoke of the melting flues on the outer slope of the Roof of the Mint, I have ~~now~~ concluded that the best practical method available would be to construct a ~~dee~~ well on out side the S. Western corner of the building, and to conduct all the ^{rain} water spouts to this well. ~~The well may be~~ By means of a ^{wooden} diaphragm in the diameter of the well, descending some ^{8 or} 10 ft., the descending ^{on one side of the partition} current will alter a less agitated body of water, and then drop the light metallic particles toward the bottom of the well, while the excess water will rise ^{of} 1' on the other side of the partition, & flow ^{through} to the sewer by a terra cotta pipe. To be of the greatest utility the well should have as large a diameter as practicable, not less than 6 ft., and to avoid risk ~~to any other work (walls &c)~~, it ^{should} be located at the distance of several ft. from ~~the Mint walls~~^{any other work}. While the well need not be more than 15 ft. deep, it would perhaps be better for general Mint purposes that it should descend to the ~~water bearing strata~~ same depth as the other Mint wells, some 30 ft. below the general surface.

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MTR

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